

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEAE-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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SSM-03 /090 W

-----008021 031459Z /75

O R 031415Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7856

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2502

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION; MAY 3, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 2432 (DTG 281243Z APR 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: FOUR FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE KILLED IN CLASHES
WITH GUERRILLAS NEAR TYRE. THE SAME DAY PALESTINIANS AND SYRIAN
ADF FORCES CLASHED IN SIDON. BOMB INJURED THIRTY-ONE PEOPLE IN
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ZGHARTA, AND ANOTHER BOMB ALSO DAMAGED A WELLKNOWN SUPERMARKET
IN WEST BEIRUT. PRESIDENT ASSAD TOLD PIERRE GEMAYEL THAT
SYRIA HAS NO DESIGNS ON LEBANON. LEBANESE FRONT DEMANDED A
PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT. FORMER PRESIDENT FRANJIYAH CRICICIZED
THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. UNIFIL CLASHES IN SOUTH.

ACCORDING TO REUTERS, THREE FRENCH SOLDIERS WERE KILLED WHEN A FRENCH ARMORED CAR WAS AMBUSHED BY EITHER LEBANESE LEFTISTS OR PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS NEAR TYRE ON MAY 2 (SEPTTEL). AT THE SAME TIME, GUERRILLAS ALSO MORTARED FRENCH BARRACKS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, KILLING ONE FRENCH SOLDIER AND WOUNDING SIX OTHERS. A PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN IN THE REGION TOLD AP THAT THE ATTACKS WERE IN RETALIATION FOR THE KILLING OF TWO MEMBERS OF A LEBANESE LEFTIST PATROL ON APRIL 30 NEAR TYRE. (THREE OTHER MILITIAMEN WERE OUNDED BY FRENCH TROOPS IN THE SAME AREA MONDAY.) THE SAME DAY, GUERRILLAS KILLED ONE SENEGALESE DOLDIER AND CAPTURED TEN OTHERS. PRISONERS WERE RELEASED MAY 3, HOWEVER.

3. PALESTINIAN SYRIAN CLASHES IN SIDON.

THE SAME DAY PALESTINIANS AND SYRIAN ADF FORCES ENGAGED EACH OTHER WITH ROCKETS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE IN SIDON. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS ONE FATAH GUERRILLA WAS KILLED AND ONE SYRIAN SOLDIER WOUNDED. PALESTINIANS SAID THE FIGHTING BROKE OUT WHEN SYRIANS TRIED TO ARREST A MEMBER OF ABU ABBAS'S PALESTINIAN LIBERATION FRONT.

4. ZGHARTA EXPLOSION.

ON MAY 1 THIRTY-ONE PEOPLE WERE INJURED WHEN A BOMB EXPLODED IN A CAR IN THE NORTH LEBANESE TOWN OF ZGHARTA, THE HOME OF PRESIDENT CONFIDENTIAL

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SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH. ANOTHER BOMB WAS FOUND IN ZGHARTA THE AFTER-NOON OF MAY 2, BUT WAS DEFUSED BEFORE IT EXPLODED. PRESS HAS SPECULATED PHALANGE WAS RESPONSIBLE.

5. VIOLENCE IN BEIRUT.

BOMBINGS AND SHOOTINGS CONTINUE ON A DAILY BASIS IN BEIRUT. AT 1530 HOURS, ON MAY 1, ARMED PHALANGE IN CAR SHOT AND KILLED NLP MEMBER IN EAST BEIRUT, ACCORDING TO LEBANESE POLICE.

6. GEMAYEL VISITS DAMASCUS.

PHALANGE PARTY LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL VISITED PRESIDENT ASSAD IN DAMASCUS MAY 1. ACCORDING TO THE PHALANGIST LEBANON NEWS AGENCY, ASSAD TOLD GEMAYEL: "LEBANON IS SMALL IN ITS AREA AND RESOURCES, LARGE IN PROBLEMS AND POPULATION, AND WE DEFINITELY HAVE NO DESIGNS ON IT."

7. LEBANESE FRONT DEMANDS PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT.

THE LEBANESE FRONT ON MAY 2 ISSUED A STATEMENT DEMANDING THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE NEXT CABINET BE DRAWN EXCLUSIVELY FROM PARLIAMENT,

EXCEPT FOR OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER HOSS (WHO IS NOT A DEUPTY).
COMMENT. THE LEBANESE FRONT PROBABLY ADOPTED THIS POSITON AS A
WAY OF ALLOWING PEOPLE LIKE CAMILLE CHAMOUN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
GOVERNMENT WHILE EXCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL MOVE-
MENT SUCH AS IBRAHIM QULAYLAT AND PRO-SYRIANS SUCH AS ASIM QANSUH.
SUCH A FORMULA IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE OPPOSED BY BOTH THE
NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND THE SYRIANS.

8. FRANJIYAH CRITICIZES U.S.

IN AN INTERVIEW CARRIED BY THE WEEKLY AL-JUMHOUR AL-HADID ON
MAY 2, FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH CHARGED THAT THE
PRESENT U.S. ADMINISTRATION WAS CARRYING OUT A PLOT OF HENRY
KISSINGER'S TO GIVE THE WHOLE OF SOUTH LEBANON TO THE PALESTINIANS
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AND "SOME OF THE LEBANESE". FRANJIYAH EXPLAINED THAT THIS IS WHY
HE WAS MET "BY AMERICAN DOGS" WHEN HE VISITED NEW YORK TO ATTEND
THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. (FRANJIYAH APPARENTLY WAS
REFERRING TO POLICE DOGS TRAINED TO DETECT NARCOTICS AT CUSTOMS
IN NEW YORK.) HE STATED VAGUELY THAT "HE WOULD OPEN A CORRIDOR
BETWEEN NORTH LEBANON AND MUSLIM LEBANON" IF THE COUNTRY WERE
PARTITIONED. FRANJIYAH ALSO CRITICIZED THE DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 27, IN PART BECAUSE IT
WAS NOT SHOWN TO HIM BEFORE IT WAS ANNOUNCED. HE SPECIFIED THAT
HE OPPOSED SOME PARTS OF THE DOCUMENT BECAUSE THEY COULD BE
INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT A PALESTINIAN ARMED PRESENCE WOULD BE
TOLERATED IN LEBANON.
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